

The 7-question format used in Discovery Groups represents biblical DNA, the genetic code of the spiritual life that Jesus left behind. The questions are the method by which the Spirit will transfer the genetic code into the lives of those being disciplined.

QUESTION 7: Who should you share with this week? (Evangelism/Multiplication)

Each group member is asked to name someone to share with in the coming week. The content of the sharing can be related to what they are reading and obeying from the Bible or in general what God is doing in his or her life. The goal is to be spiritually obvious without being spiritually obnoxious.

Sharing should not be persuasive (which creates pressure that causes people to put up barriers to a relationship) but an experience or story that draws them in. When someone shares on a personal level, we listen and enjoy the invitation to another's internal world (transparency).

Experienced Christians have the hardest time being natural with this because they often have been brought up to wear a mask and pretend to have their act together—which gives the false impression that being a follower of Jesus makes people immune from difficulties (inauthenticity).

Group members often share by looking for opportunities to mention to friends that they learned something while reading the Bible. When no one is shoving religion down their throats, it piques their interest. Some might even want to join the group. This is where the DNA of replication begins. But groups need to multiply, not grow.

If a friend asks to join, you can say, "Our group has already started and we aren't adding people. But if you want to do something like this, I will help you lead one for yourself and the people you know. Let's start a new group."

You can then coach that person as she or he begins this new group. Regular phone calls or personal meetings to talk through the rough spots and issues that develop will give them confidence. Since the leadership development is built-in rather than bolted on, every group member is equipped to start a group.

Sources: "Spent Matches" by Roy Moran, "Contagious Disciple Making" by David L. Watson & Paul D. Watson, "How to Launch a Discovery Bible Study" by novo.org.